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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 YEONG LEE,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 EL METATE, INC. and DOES 1 to 10,

14 Defendants.
15

No. 8:24-cv-00484-JAK (KESx)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE:
SUPPLEMENTAL JURISDICTION
OVER STATE-LAW CLAIMS**

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17 Based on a review of the Complaint (Dkt. 1), the following determinations are
18 made:

19 The Complaint alleges violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42
20 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. (the “ADA”), the Unruh Civil Rights Act (the “Unruh Act”),
21 Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51-53, and other provisions of California law. Dkt. 1 ¶¶ 18-51.
22 Supplemental jurisdiction is the basis for the state-law claims. *Id.* ¶ 7.

23 District courts may exercise “supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that
24 are so related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part
25 of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.” 28
26 U.S.C. § 1367(a). This “is a doctrine of discretion, not of plaintiff’s right.” *United Mine*
27 *Workers v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966). “In order to decide whether to exercise
28

1 jurisdiction over pendent state law claims, a district court should consider . . . at every
2 stage of the litigation, the values of judicial economy, convenience, fairness, and
3 comity.” *Nishimoto v. Federman-Bachrach & Assocs.*, 903 F.2d 709, 715 (9th Cir. 1990)
4 (citation omitted).

5 In 2012, California imposed heightened pleading requirements for Unruh Act
6 claims. Cal. Civ. Code § 55.52(a)(1); Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 425.50(a). In 2015,
7 California also imposed a “high-frequency litigant fee” for plaintiffs and law firms that
8 have brought large numbers of construction-related accessibility claims. Cal. Gov’t Code
9 70616.5. As detailed in previous orders by this Court and other district courts in
10 California, these reforms addressed the small number of plaintiffs and counsel who bring
11 a significant percentage of construction-related accessibility claims. *E.g.*, *Whitaker v.*
12 *RCP Belmont Shore LLC*, No. LA CV19-09561 JAK (JEMx), 2020 WL 3800449, at *6-
13 8 (Mar. 30, 2020); *Garibay v. Rodriguez*, No. 2:18-cv-09187-PA (AFMx), 2019 WL
14 5204294, at *1-6 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 27, 2019). These statutes impose special requirements
15 for construction-related accessibility claims brought by high-frequency plaintiffs
16 pursuant to the Unruh Act. Because accepting supplemental jurisdiction over such claims
17 would permit high-frequency plaintiffs to side-step those state-law requirements by
18 pursuing the claims in a federal forum, many district courts, including this one, have
19 declined to exercise such jurisdiction. *E.g.*, *Whitaker*, 2020 WL 3800449, at *6-8;
20 *Garibay*, 2019 WL 5204294, at *1-6.

21 A review of the docket in this District shows that, in the one-year period preceding
22 the filing of the Complaint, Plaintiff has filed more than ten actions in which he has
23 advanced construction-related accessibility claims. In a California Superior Court,
24 Plaintiff would be deemed a high-frequency litigant. Therefore, “California’s recent
25 legislative enactments confirm that the state has a substantial interest in this case.” *Perri*
26 *v. Thrifty Payless*, No. 19-CV-07829-CJC (SKx), 2019 WL 7882068, at *2 (C.D. Cal.
27 Oct. 8, 2019).

1 In light of the foregoing, Plaintiff is **ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE** why the
2 Court should not decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.
3 Plaintiff shall file a response to this Order to Show Cause, not to exceed ten pages, on or
4 before March 25, 2024. In responding to this Order to Show Cause, Plaintiff shall
5 identify the amount of statutory damages Plaintiff seeks to recover. Plaintiff shall also
6 present a declaration, signed under penalty of perjury, providing the evidence necessary
7 for the Court to determine if Plaintiff meets the definition of a “high-frequency litigant”
8 as defined in Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 425.50(b)(1) & (2). Failure to file a timely response
9 to this Order to Show Cause may result in the dismissal of the state-law claims without
10 prejudice by declining to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over them, pursuant to 28
11 U.S.C. § 1367(c). Defendant may also file a response to this Order to Show Cause, not to
12 exceed ten pages, on or before April 1, 2024. Upon receipt of the response(s), the matter
13 will be taken under submission, and a written order will issue.

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15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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17 Dated: March 07, 2024



John A. Kronstadt
United States District Judge